



Activity sheet 3

"Today, the Governor General . . ."

Instructions

- Research and present in class one of the five themes below.
- Information and images can be found at www.gg.ca.
- Your introduction must begin with the words, "Today, the governor general ... "
- The body of your presentation must answer all the questions listed under your theme.
- In your conclusion, share your personal impressions on what you have learned.

Themes and avenues of research

1. Biographical:

"Today, the governor general . . . is His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston."

- Who is Mr. Johnston (career, family, etc.)? See gg.ca, under the "Governor General" tab.
- What are the three pillars of his mandate? See the "Smart & Caring" tab.
- What events has he taken part in recently? See the "News and Events" tab.

2. Descriptive:

"Today, the governor general . . . has a number of responsibilities, which can be grouped into five fields of activity."

- What are these five fields of activity? See gg.ca, under the "Role" tab.
- What are his duties with regards to the Canadian Forces? See the "Role / Commander-in-Chief" tab.
- Through what types of activities does he support Canadian values, such as diversity and inclusion? See the "Role / Bring Canadians Together" tab. (Give examples of recent events.)

3. Reflective:

"Today, the governor general . . . meets the students at [name of school]."

- Why does the governor general visit schools? See gg.ca, under the "Role / Bring Canadians Together" and the "Smart & Caring / Learning and Innovation" tabs, among others.

- If the *Governor General* were to visit your school today, what would you like him to learn about, see or discuss during his visit? Why?
- What would you ask him? Why?

4. Case study:

“Today, the governor general . . . recognizes Canadians who have made a difference in our society.”

- What are the Canadian honours? See gg.ca, under the “Honours” tab.
- Who in your community has received a Canadian honour or a governor general's award? See the “Honours / Find a Recipient” tab. (Present a few examples.)
- Who do you think, in your community, deserves to receive an honour or award? Identify which honour or award they deserve. Justify your choice using the criteria listed on the gg.ca site, in the subsections about each honour.

5. Opinion piece or class debate:

“Today, the governor general . . . plays an essential role in protecting our parliamentary democracy.”

- What are the governor general's constitutional responsibilities? See gg.ca, under the “Role / Constitutional Role” tab.
- In your opinion, have there been any incidents in recent or not-so-recent history in which the governor general had to intervene in order to ensure good governance of the country?
- In your opinion, what is the real scope of the powers of the Crown that the governor general can use in exceptional circumstances? See <http://canadiancrown.gc.ca>, under the “Diamond Jubilee / Teachers' Corner” section, the PDF file *A Crown of Maples*, chapter on “Powers of the Crown.”
- Do you agree with the statement that “the governor general plays an essential role in protecting our democracy”? (Why or why not? Justify your answer.)

